

Education Service Network, NFP, Inc.

Illinois Human Services Commission Public Hearing

Teen REACH and ISA/Gear Up programs funded by the Illinois Department of
Human Services



Christine Coster-Bowen
9/13/2011

My name is Christine Coster-Bowen and I am the site director for the Seneca High School Teen REACH and ISA/Gear Up programs. I have been employed by Education Service Network (ESN NFP, Inc.) since September of 2006. Kendall/Grundy ROE is our grant administrator, and we have sites at both Seneca High School and Mazon-Verona-Kinsman Middle School. For those of you not familiar, Teen REACH is an after-school program that works with at-risk youth and provides homework assistance, positive mentoring, life skills, recreation, service learning and parent participation. Gear Up is a six-year U.S. Dept. of Education Grant which assists in career/college exploration, test preparation, academic assistance as well as complementing the Teen REACH objectives. ISA/Gear Up also has a scholarship component. Our program has been successful serving the needs of youth and their families in the Grundy/LaSalle County areas.

This year Gear Up is operating on a no-cost extension; we are completely dependent on Teen REACH funding to provide services to over 50 youth in grades 5-12. This includes a number of graduating seniors at Seneca High School who are depending on guidance from our programs to make crucial decisions which will impact their futures. We also serve parents by linking them to social service resources of which they may not have been aware existed.

As of August, our Teen REACH funding was eliminated which severely compromises our ability to provide Teen REACH and Gear Up programming. We have laid off all program employees and our sites are staffed on a volunteer basis by myself and the program coordinator, Danette Pasdertz. We all realize the fiscal challenges being faced in our great state of Illinois. It is unfortunate that the programs which serve those in need have had to be reduced or eliminated due to lack of funding.

Governor Quinn has stated that "Quality Education and Opportunities for Growth and Learning for all Illinois Students" is a priority in budget consideration, as is "protection of our most vulnerable citizens". Our programs address both of these priorities, as we are providing opportunities for growth and learning, as well as providing services which benefit individuals and the community as a whole.

We agree that performance measures are imperative to the decision making process of funding programs such as ours, especially in these economic times, by emphasizing accountability. That being said, it is because of an error in data that our sites funding was eliminated.

DHS used a 3rd quarter performance measures report to decide which programs would continue to get funding. Our 3rd quarter performance measurement report was wrong and did not include the site information from MVK Middle School. We were told they would fix the report for the 4th quarter. DHS also combined our numbers with three Will County sites, although our grants were written and submitted separately. Will County was a new program this grant cycle and struggled meeting their requirements with the slow state payments.

The 4th quarter reports are now out and our two sites numbers are as good as any site that has been funded for FY12. Our student attendance and service hours were over 100 percent of our required numbers. Our cost per student hour was also lower than the rate allowed by the state.

When faced with the hard decision of which sites retain funding, the reports utilized need to provide the correct information. Budgeting for Results is the responsible way to determine the value of services given to Illinois taxpayers. But in any business, good decisions cannot be made based upon bad data. This becomes even more important in today's economic climate.

We are hopeful that DHS will review our correct performance measures and restore funding to our two sites.

Because of our programs, kids such as Destiny have a place to go where they fit in; Sarah has a place to discover she has a voice in her future; Kim has a place where she is valued as a person; Shelbie can receive the academic support which will contribute to her success as an adult, and Miguel's mother can continue to rely on our family resources. Several dozen kids from single and working parent households won't go home after school to an unsupervised, empty house. All will know that there is an adult who truly cares about them, their achievements, their goals and their future.

Your time and consideration is greatly appreciated. Letters of support and petitions advocating for the restoration of our funding, as well as performance measure reports have been copied and are available for your review.



Illinois Department of Human Services
Bureau of Youth Services and Delinquency Prevention
Teen REACH

Quarterly Report - Performance Indicators
Report Period: 4/1/2011 - 6/30/2011



AGENCY: 063003 Education Service Network NFP, Inc.

	AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE			YOUTH ATTENDANCE HOURS			DAYS OPEN		
	Proposed	Actual	Percent	Projected	Actual	Percent	Expected	Actual	Percent
Fairview HAJ	18	11.0	61 %	2244	1653	74 %	60	50	83 %
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF JOLIET	19	4.7	25 %	2370	781	33 %	60	58	97 %
Joliet Park District	20	5.7	28 %	2473	366	15 %	60	23	38 %
Mazon-Verona-Kinsman Middle	15	16.3	109 %	1941	2728	141 %	60	56	93 %
SENECA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL	14	14.8	105 %	1888	1654	88 %	60	46	77 %
AGENCY SUMMARY	86	53.0	62 %	10915	7182	66 %	300	233	78 %

Agency Fiscal Year Grant Amount: \$147,273.00

Report Period Grant Amount: \$36,818.00

Average Cost Per Participant Per Hour: \$5.13

\$2.94

mvr/sas* stand alone numbers
for our two sites
107% 114% 85%

Perms for all sites

Days open 100%

Prop/Act Att-Hrs 80%

Prop/Act Daily Att 80%

Pop. Served 85%

Days 50% 4 days/wk

Cost \$4.50



Illinois Department of Human Services
Bureau of Youth Services and Delinquency Prevention

Teen REACH
Quarterly Report - Performance Indicators
Report Period: 1/1/2011 - 3/31/2011



AGENCY: 063003 Education Service Network NFP, Inc.

	AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE			YOUTH ATTENDANCE HOURS			DAYS OPEN		
	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Evergreen Terrace	18	0.0	0 %	2244	0	0 %	60	0	0 %
Fairview HAJ	18	10.5	58 %	2244	1599	71 %	60	51	85 %
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF JOLIET	19	5.0	26 %	2370	649	27 %	60	48	80 %
Joliet Park District	20	5.7	29 %	2473	756	31 %	60	47	78 %
SENECA TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL	14	19.2	137 %	1888	1683	89 %	60	49	82 %
AGENCY SUMMARY	89	40.0	45 %	11218	4687	42 %	300	195	65 %
Agency Fiscal Year Grant Amount:	\$147,273.00								
Report Period Grant Amount:	\$36,818.00								
Average Cost Per Participant Per Hour:	\$7.86								

September 6, 2011

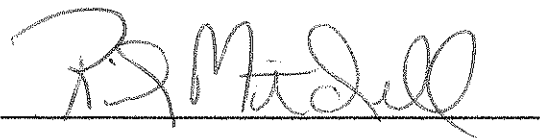
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In a day and age when we see much of our tax dollar directed at programs that evolve because many of our youth today make wrong decisions, it seems counter intuitive to cut funding to a program that empowers young people to make good choices and become role models for others.

Since becoming active in Teen Reach at Seneca High School, my daughter Destiny has grown in many ways. One way she has grown is in the way she perceives herself. Her self esteem has been elevated tremendously and along with it, her self confidence. Another significant change has occurred in the area of leadership. Destiny has voluntarily taken on leadership roles in school, the community, and in Teen Reach retreats. A final way Teen Reach has benefited my daughter is the improvements in her communication skills. Since her involvement in Teen Reach, Destiny has joined the speech team and thoroughly enjoys it.

It would be my hope that some reconsideration be given to the de-funding of the Teen Reach program at Seneca High School. Teen Reach provides invaluable resources to the young people who choose to be involved. The trickle down effects of their involvement can not be calculated.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rick Mitchell", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Mitchell
P.O. Box 111, 136 W Scott St.
Seneca, IL 61360

Seneca Township High School

District 160

307 East Scott Street - PO Box 20 - Seneca, Illinois 61360

(815) 357-5000, Fax (815) 357-5050

www.senecahts.org

August 29, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Teen REACH program located at Mazon-Verona-Kinsman Middle School and Seneca High School. As a guidance counselor at Seneca High School, I have helped Christine Bowen and Danette Pasdertz with gathering student information, encouraging new student membership, etc. After hearing that the State of Illinois cut their funding for this school year, especially since the decision was based on incorrect data, I felt that I had to write to let you know how important I feel this program is for our students.

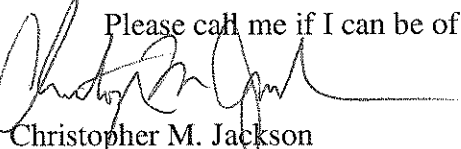
The students that are a part of this after-school program get help in so many different ways. Not only do they receive tutoring to help with their academics, but they also learn so much more. These are students that are not typically in after-school sports programs or even other school clubs and organizations, but being a part of Teen REACH has made a huge difference in their life because they are a part of it. Whenever I have gone into the Teen REACH classroom after school, I always notice that the students seem like one big family. They have a sense of belonging with the group, and that is so important to students, especially high school students. This definitely has a big influence on the success of a high school student.

Another extremely important aspect of the Teen REACH program is to teach life skills, especially good decision making. This happens daily in the after-school program, and it also happens when the program takes students to Operation Snowball. Operation Snowball is international alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use prevention program. Every year many students in the Teen REACH program attend Operation Snowball, and the experience has always been extremely positive.

DHS apparently based the decision to stop funding for this program based on 3rd quarter performance measures that were wrong. First off, the report did not include site information from Mazon-Verona-Kinsman Middle School. Not only did DHS leave that site information off the report, but they also combined the Seneca High School site information with three Will County sites even though they are not connected in any way including the actual grant. Looking at the corrected information in the 4th quarter, it certainly appears that the numbers for the Mazon-Verona-Kinsman Middle School site and the Seneca High School site are as good as any site that retained funding.

I understand that the State of Illinois is facing many tough economic decisions, but I would really like to see DHS review this decision again. It does not seem fair to the Teen REACH coordinators to cut the program after the success they have had with students, and it certainly does not seem fair to the students at both these schools who really benefited from this program and the leadership of Christine Bowen and Danette Pasdertz.

Please call me if I can be of further assistance at (815) 357-5000, ext. 119.











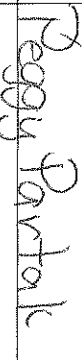



Christopher M. Jackson
Guidance Counselor
Seneca Township High School

T.E.A.M. - Together Everyone Achieves More

Teachers @ Seneca High School

Petition to Restore Seneca Teen REACH Funding











Petition summary and background	The Illinois Department of Human Services has eliminated Teen REACH funding from the Seneca High School site. This decision was based upon erroneous data which did not include information from the Mazon-Verona-Kinsman Middle School.
Action petitioned for	We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to review the correct 4 th quarter performance measures for the Seneca High School and MWK Middle School sites and restore funding to continue these much needed programs.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Mark Victor		127 Valley View ^{Seneca}		9/2/11
Kelsey Adams		307 E. 54th St. ^{Seneca} IL 60560		9/2/11
Pat O'Kane		1168 Calhoun Ave. ^{Seneca} IL 60560		9/2/11
Kerri Johnson		2087 Creekside Ln ^{Seneca} Morris, IL 60450		9/2/11
Nichole Payne		P.O. Box 233 Seneca, IL 61360	We have numerous benefit opportunities in this program.	9/2/11
Cathy Bergstrom		PO Box 21 Seneca, IL 61360	excellent service!	9/2/11
Heather Caruth		1542 N. 205th Rd.	Wonderful program.	9/2/11
Peggy Catal		2978 Hickory Ln Marengo, IL	Very helpful program	9/2/11
Tina Mairhofer		PO Box 755, 2827 E 29th Rd Seneca, IL	Program was a great asset to students involved	9/2/11
Christopher Jackson		700 Pleasant Lane Oak City, IL 60416	Beneficial to students	9/2/11
Kirk Moneris		620 Centre St. Mazon, IL 60444	Very helpful	9/2/11
Karen Ruder		2381 N 31st Rd Marengo, IL 61341	Great Program!	9/2/11

THANK YOU

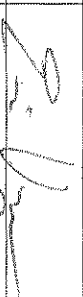




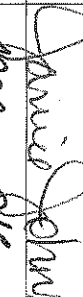
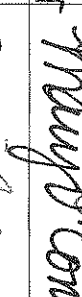





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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Jeff Stenzel		229 Valley View		Aug 8/2
Chris Decker		41681 Tulip Ave. Mowee, IL		9/12/11
Nedheid Feiguesen		1947 N 26 th Rd, Ottawa IL		9/12/11
Michael Coughlin		P.O. Box 239 Mazon, IL		9/12/2011
Don McCarthy		PO Box 756 Seneca, IL		9/12/2011
Amanda Beck		8000 West Old Stage Rd ^{Mazon IL}	Students come first	9/12/2011
Ryan Reade		SENECA H.S.	Food program	
Brian Beck		SENECA HS		9/12/11
Karen Kamen		SPJ		9/12/11
Kent Weber		134 S. Main St. Seneca, IL 61360	Great program	9/12/11

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Erica Brown		300 Village Lane Seneca, IL		9/2/2011
Fran Ogden		2441 N. 32 nd Rd, Marseilles		9/2/2011
Andy Jackson		PO Box 94 Seneca, IL		9/2/2011
Barry Frey		127 Young St, Marseilles		9/2/2011
Kim Sedlock		109 Watson St, Ottawa		9/9/2011
Danice Johnson		3937 N. 21st Rd, Seneca, IL		9-9-11
Mary O'Connor		Mrs Mollie Dr. Morris ⁶⁴⁴ St		9-9-11
Michael Dolak		2853 N. 32 nd Rd, Seneca, IL		9-9-11
Todd Yagge		130 Hillman Lane Seneca, IL		9-9-11
Marilee Applebee		278 E. Lincoln St Seneca		9-9-11
Marciella Jacetta		3820 Dixon Dr, Morris		9-9-11
Asbury D. Beyer		601 8 th Ave Marseilles		9/9/11

Seneca Community Consolidated School

Mr. Shane Severson
5-8 Principal
174 Oak Street
Seneca, Illinois 61360

Telephone 357-8744
Voice Mail 815-357-8744 x 3204
Fax 815-357-1078
E-Mail: shanes@sgs170.org

June 2, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to recommend Chris Bowen for any position of employment in terms of working with adolescent teens. As principal of Seneca South Campus, I had the opportunity to work with Chris during my first two years here in Seneca. During the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years, Chris was in charge of our after-school program called Teen Reach. The program included 15 to 20 junior high students in need of academic support and social/emotional guidance. Through Chris's hard work and dedication, the program proved to be very beneficial for our students and I was certainly disappointed when state funding ran short and the program ended in 2009.

During her time here at the South Campus, Chris made a great impression on her students as well as our staff. Her program was a positive influence for many of our students who struggled academically or received limited support from home and needed an added positive influence. Her room served as a safe, structured environment where kids were provided the opportunity to work on homework, learn appropriate social skills, and have fun. Chris understood the balance between structured activities and fun activities which are crucial to an after-school program. As a result, kids enjoyed attending the program even though they knew Chris had a high-level of expectations for them. Chris's rapport with the kids also sustained attendance throughout the year. Students trusted her and confided in her on a regular basis. They always knew she would be there for them, and that she would consistently go above and beyond for them when they needed her help.

Working with Chris was certainly a positive experience for many of our students. Due to her unquestionable dedication and commitment to the kids in the Teen Reach program, I would confidently recommend Chris Bowen for any position she would seek.













Sincerely,



Teachers Seneca Middle School

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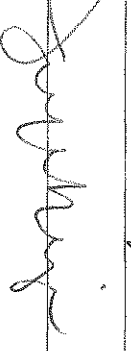
Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Shane Severson		2165 Buffalo Rd, Morris, IL		9/8/11
Tiffany Wheeler		2741 E 36th St, Morris, IL		9/9/11
Ann Lavazza		330185 Patricia Ln, Canton, IL		9/19/11
Mary Kiel		2814 E. 24th Rd, Seneca, IL		9-9-11
Debi Cisneros		113 Seneca Cedar Creek Ln, Oglesby, IL		9-9-11
Hope Fabris		714 Poplar St, Ottawa, IL		9-9-11
Julie Maierhofer		241 N. Commerce, Seneca, IL		9-9-11
Terry Maxwell		4320 W. Wm. Rd, Newark, IL 60541		9-9-11
Michael Richards		315 W. McKinney Rd., Ottawa, IL 61350		9-9-11
Tim Brungard		1486 Twilight Dr., Morris, IL 60556		9-9-11
Ly Braden		3263 Market, Seneca, IL 61350		9/9/11
Patty Wagner		543 Chapel St, Ottawa, IL 61350		9/9/11

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Cory Yandell	[Signature]	359 E. Lincoln St. Seneca, IL		9/12/11
Julie Hamilton	[Signature]	2808 N. 2350th Rd Seneca, IL		9/12/11
Kathleen Staal	[Signature]	2619 N 1800 E Rd Odell, IL		9/12/11
Katherine Bradley	[Signature]	208 S. Hosack St. Seneca, IL 61360	The students NEED this program! Don't take it away.	9/12/11
Laura Marenco	[Signature]	362 N. 24th Rd Oglesby, IL 61348		9/12/11
Berg Walin	[Signature]	2038 14th St Pough, OH 41359		9/12/11
Sheri Sherven	[Signature]	215 E Union Seneca IL 61360		9/12/11
Sarah Timmons	[Signature]	2403 E 20th Rd Seneca, IL 61360		9/12/11
Michelle Wilmie	[Signature]	2508 N. 19th Rd Pansom, IL 60470		9/12/11

Community at-large

Petition to Restore Seneca Teen REACH Funding

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Matthew Phelan		907 W. Alton St		9/6/11
Brian Dacoma		40 Burdett Seneca	Great Program	9-7-11
Kathy Phelan		8555 W. O'Malley Rd		9-8-11
Rob Anderson		143 Valley View	Good	9/9/11
Larry Novotus		143 Valley View		9/8/11
George Lambory		119 Valley View Dr		9/8/11
Lisa Weirich		248 Shipyard Rd Seneca		9/8/11
Jennifer Blum		139 S Main		9/8/11

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Kate Cude	Kate Cude	236 Commerce St Seneca IL 61360	Seneca IL 61360	9/18/11
Lenore Erickson	Lenore Erickson	250 Commerce St Seneca IL 61360	Seneca IL 61360	9/17
Dee Borawicz	Dee Borawicz	166 East Adams St. Seneca, IL 61360	Seneca, IL 61360	9/17
Patrick M. Goforth	Patrick M. Goforth	158 E. Appleton St. Seneca, IL 61360	Seneca, IL 61360	9/17
Abella McGeorge	Abella McGeorge	158 E. Adams St. Seneca, IL 61360	Seneca, IL 61360	9/17
Eula Mitchell	Eula Mitchell	121 Valley View Seneca, IL 61360	Seneca, IL 61360	9-7
Anthony J. Hildert	Anthony J. Hildert	121 Valley View Seneca, IL 61360	Seneca, IL 61360	9-7
Rick Mitchell	Rick Mitchell	136 W. Scott Seneca, IL 61360	Seneca, IL 61360	9/7

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Michael Breasler	<i>Michael Breasler</i>	217 Commerce St.		9-7-11
Carly Erickson	<i>Carly Erickson</i>	231 Commerce St.		9-7-11
Oran Marshall	<i>Oran Marshall</i>	155 East Monroe St.		9-7-2011
Christina Lindquist	<i>Christina Lindquist</i>	304 Cortney Ave.		
Rene Schaefer	<i>Rene Schaefer</i>	248 N. Main Street		9-7-2011
Alana Burns	<i>Alana Burns</i>	204 W. about R.		
Jennifer Finch	<i>Jennifer Finch</i>	143 N. Main St.		9-7-11
Rachel Greenaway	<i>Rachel Greenaway</i>	130 S. Market St.		9-7-11
Chad Wicks	<i>Chad Wicks</i>	168 Grant St.		9-7-11
Anthony Bussell	<i>Anthony Bussell</i>	414 E. Jackson		9-7-11
Jayne Thorson	<i>Jayne Thorson</i>	168 Grant		4-7-11
Heidi Fox	<i>Heidi Fox</i>	436 N. Main St.		9-7-11

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